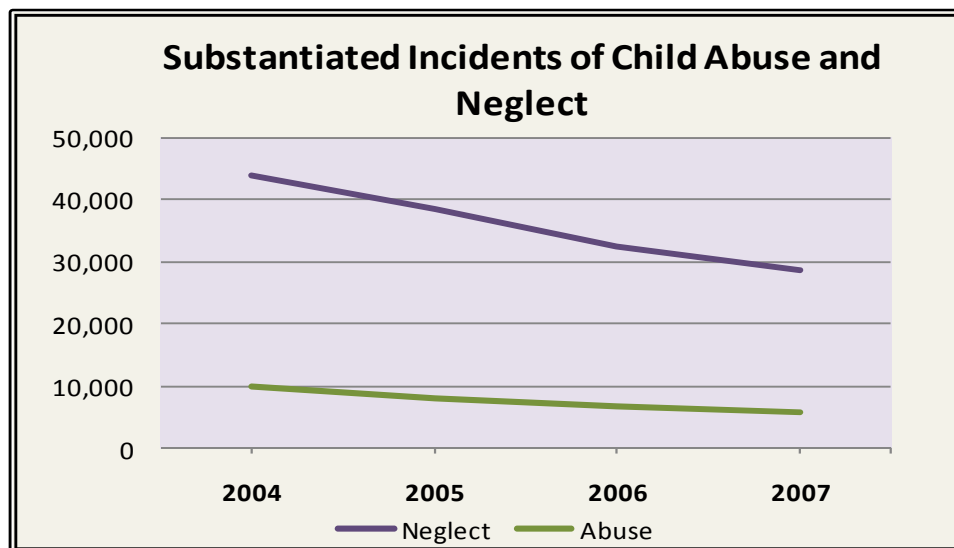




SAFE

- *ENHANCE Family Relationships*

GOCF outcome indicator: substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect
-for children ages 0-5; elementary, middle, and high school students



Data Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, 2009.

To properly address incidences of child maltreatment, suspected child abuse or neglect reports are submitted to local Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) offices located throughout Georgia. Once submitted, DFCS screens the reports in order to determine if an investigation is warranted. Investigations are conducted to ascertain whether a report is substantiated, which means that evidence supports the allegations of abuse or neglect. In 2007, 28,734 incidents of neglect were substantiated; 5,806 incidents of abuse were substantiated, with physical abuse as its most common form.

In order to determine whether a maltreatment report is substantiated, a thorough and timely investigation must be conducted by the local DFCS. Georgia DFCS has increased its timely completion of investigations to 96% for 2009, up by 20% from 2004's investigations. Intensive training, monitoring, and tracking performance have improved DFCS's ability to carry out comprehensive and complete investigations.

Data Source: Georgia Children's Health Alliance. Refocus on Child Health in Georgia, 2010. Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services, 2010. Georgia Department of Human Services, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, Performance Outcomes through SFY 2009.



While everyone is encouraged to report suspected child abuse or neglect, the law necessitates that persons in some professions be required to report. They are called mandated reporters, and include the following professionals:

- Hospital or medical personnel ▪
 - Psychologists ▪
 - Dentists ▪
 - Counselors, social workers, and therapists ▪
 - Teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, and visiting teachers ▪
 - Child welfare agency personnel ▪
 - Child counseling personnel ▪
 - Child service organization personnel ▪
-

**When reporting child maltreatment, it is important to remember:
If a child is in immediate danger, the police should be called.
Reporters do not have to be sure that maltreatment has occurred.
Authorities will conduct an investigation to determine
whether a child has been maltreated.
Reports are confidential, and reporters do not have
to leave their name.**